



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 13, 2003
NR03-037

Reminder: South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Installation Required by October 14, 2003

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is issuing this reminder that, **effective October 14, 2003, an owner or operator of a vessel that has been issued a limited access endorsement for South Atlantic rock shrimp must have an operating NOAA Fisheries-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board the vessel when on a trip in the South Atlantic.** The VMS requirement is part of the final rule published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2003 (68 FR 2188), implementing Amendment 5 to the FMP for the **South Atlantic** shrimp fishery.

An operating VMS includes an operating mobile transmitting unit on the vessel and a functioning communication link between the unit and NOAA Fisheries as provided by a NOAA Fisheries-approved communication service provider. NOAA published a list of approved VMS mobile transmitting units and communications service providers in the Federal Register on July 14, 2003 (68 FR 41559). The approved list, an installation checklist, and relevant updates are available via the OLE/SE website <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/Southeast/SED/VesselMonitoringSystem.htm>. Telephone requests can be made by calling 301-427-2300 or 727-570-5344. To submit a completed and signed checklist, mail or fax it to NOAA Enforcement Southeast, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, Koger Building, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, fax: 727-570-5575.

Through December 31, 2004, NOAA Fisheries will partially reimburse vessel owners who received an initial rock shrimp limited access endorsement and

who spent in excess of \$1,200 on the initial acquisition and installation of an approved VMS. Such a reimbursement can be up to \$775. **To receive the reimbursement, an owner must provide valid signed receipts for purchase and installation of an approved VMS to Robert Sadler, Permits Team F/SER22, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, by December 19, 2004, to be then forwarded for processing.**

The vessel owner must also confirm with NOAA Enforcement Southeast, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, Koger Building, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, 727-570-5344; fax: 727-570-5575, that the VMS is functioning.

No requests for reimbursement will be accepted after December 19, 2004, and no reimbursements will be granted after December 31, 2004.

Reminder of Key Implementation Dates

October 14, 2003 – A vessel for which a limited access endorsement for South Atlantic rock shrimp has been issued must have an operating NOAA Fisheries-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on board when on a trip in the South Atlantic.

December 19, 2004 – Last day to submit receipts (see address above) for partial reimbursement of VMS purchase and installation costs.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This Small Entity Compliance Guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. Any discrepancies between this document and the rule as published in the Federal Register will be resolved in favor of the Federal Register.